

## Message Text

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PAGE 01      SOFIA 00417 021053Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 020903Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2458

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0417

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINS, SHUM, TPHY, BU (MARINOV, STEFAN MARINOV)  
SUBJECT: MARINOV CASE

REF: A) SOFIA 0272; B) SOFIA 0411

1. STEFAN MARINOV RETURNED TO EMBASSY FEBRUARY 24 AND WAS MORE FORTHCOMING ABOUT PURPOSE FOR SEEKING LETTER FROM EMBASSY ABOUT HIS "CLAIM". MARINOV INTENDS TO APPLY TO GOB ON MAR 15 FOR PERMISSION FOR HIS "INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SPACE-TIME ABSOLUTENESS" TO BE HELD IN VARNA MAY 5-15. PRIOR TO SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION HE INTENDS TO PREPARE ARTICLE FOR PUBLICATION IN WEST ABOUT HIS STRUGGLES WITH GOB.

2. IN THAT ARTICLE HE INTENDS TO INCLUDE HIS DESCRIPTION OF TREATMENT RECEIVED AT EMBASSY IN 1974 AND APPARENTLY WISHES TO HAVE LETTER IN HAND AS "PROOF" THAT HE HAS HAD DEALINGS WITH THIS EMBASSY WITH REGARD TO HIS CLAIM FOR DAMAGES. HE DESCRIBED THE ARTICLE AS "A DEFENSE OF MY SANITY". MARINOV WAS INFORMED OF ARTICLE IN THE ECONOMIST AND IS VERY CONCERNED HIS PROBLEMS WITH GOB WILL INCREASE. STATED HE HAD BEEN VERY CAREFUL TO PLACE ARTICLES ABOUT HIS PLANNED CONFERENCE ONLY IN WESTERN SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS, WHICH NOT WIDELY READ IN BULGARIA, BUT THE ECONOMIST LIKELY TO BE READ BY BROADER AUDIENCE IN THE GOVERNMENT HERE.

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3. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE CONSTANTLY DISCOURAGED MARINOV FROM THINKING THAT HE COULD RECEIVE MONEY FROM US, HE RETURNED TO PREVIOUS REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR \$5,000. WHEN CONSUL OBSERVED THAT REQUEST SMACKED OF "BLACKMAIL", I.E., MONEY TO BE PAID TO AVOID PUBLICATION OF ARTICLE, MARINOV CONTESTED THIS SAYING THAT HE RESERVED RIGHT TO

PUBLISH ARTICLE UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES AND VIEWED MONEY AS MEANS TO PERMIT HIM TO PUBLISH HIS BOOK, WHICH WOULD SERVE DOUBLE PURPOSE OF ASSURING HIS SCIENTIFIC STANDING IN WEST AND OF FUNCTIONING AS PROTECTION AGAINST ARBITRARY ACTION BY GOB.

4. WHEN ASKED HOW HE JUDGED POSSIBILITIES THAT GOB WILL APPROVE REQUEST FOR CONFERENCE, MARINOV STATED HE THOUGHT THERE IS 60 PER CENT CHANCE HE WILL BE ARRESTED SHORTLY AFTER SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION, 5 PER CENT CHANCE GOB WILL ALLOW CONFERENCE AS ADVERTISED, AND 35 PER CENT CHANCE THAT GOB WILL IGNORE CONFERENCE IF IT IS HELD AS "MEETING" IN HIS APARTMENT.

5. ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND ON MARINOV: IN JANUARY 1974, MARINOV DELIVERED LETTER TO FRENCH EMBASSY IN SOFIA FOR PRESIDENT GEORGES POMPIDOU WITH HIS VIEWS ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS. MARINOV CLAIMS AS RESULT OF THAT LETTER HE CONFINED TO MENTAL INSTITUTION IN MAR 1974. MARINOV CLAIMS TO HAVE SEEN SAME LETTER HE GAVE TO FRENCH EMBASSY IN HIS DOSSIER. MARINOV STATES HE "EUROCOMMUNIST" AND NOT ENCHANTED WITH US CAPITALIST SYSTEM OR AMERICAN FORM OF GOVERNMENT. STATED HE HAD WAITED UNTIL ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT BEFORE PRESENTING HIS CLAIM AGAINST USG BECAUSE HE BELIEVED HE WOULD BE ACCORDED BETTER TREATMENT UNDER THE NEW ADMINISTRATION.

5 COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR FROM THE RECORD THAT MARINOV IS CAPABLE OF SENDING MATERIALS TO WEST FOR PUBLICATION, AND CONFIDENTIAL

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WE CONSIDER IT HIGHLY LIKELY THAT ANY ARTICLE FROM MARINOV RECOUNTING HIS PROBLEMS WITH GOB WILL EVENTUALLY BE PUBLISHED BY SOME WESTERN NEWSPAPER OR JOURNAL. THE RECENT ARTICLE IN THE ECONOMIST ABOUT HIS THEORY HAS PROBABLY ENHANCED HIS STATUS IN THE WEST AS SOMEONE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY. WITH RECENT SPATE OF NEWS STORIES ABOUT POLITICAL PRISONERS IN BULGARIA, AND REFERENCE TO SOME OF THEM BEING CONFINED IN INSANE ASYLUMS (REF B), MARINOV'S ARTICLE LIKELY TO FOCUS MORE ATTENTION ON THIS ISSUE. WE CONVINCED THAT MARINOV WILL INCLUDE DETAILS OF HIS ALLEGED TREATMENT AT EMBASSY IN HIS ARTICLE, WHETHER HE HAS LETTER OR NOT. MARINOV PLANS RETURN EMBASSY ON MARCH 10 FOR ANSWER. PER PARA 8 REF A, EMBASSY REQUESTED MATTER OF LETTER BE REVIEWED AND EMBASSY BE RE-INSTRUCTED. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED BY THAT TIME, WE WILL TELL MARINOV ON MARCH 10 THAT HE WILL GET NO RPT NO LETTER FROM US. ALSO, EMBASSY AGAIN REQUESTS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE WE SUGGESTED BE PREPARED IN PARA 3 REFTEL.  
HERZ

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